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February 28, 2000 LB 1285, 1394

that would be agreeable.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. It is 11:30, and as the agenda states, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler moves that LB 1394 be placed on General File notwithstanding the action of the Natural Resources Committee. Senator Beutler offered his motion on February 24, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, to open on your motion.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, this is a bill that, if it were brought before the floor of the Legislature and approved, would allow NRDs, natural resources districts to reasonably follow through with projects that their boards have approved. And I will explain that as we go along here. LB 1394 was a bill that was signed onto by 26 senators, 26 senators who asked the committee to reach some reasonable resolution of a situation that, at least in my opinion, is an untenable position for our law to be in. This is the...maybe the second time, maybe the first time that I've ever asked that a bill be raised out of committee. I respect the committee system, I think the benefit of the doubt should always go to the committee. But I think there are some situations where the result of the committee action is such poor public policy and is so destructive to a majority interest in particular communities that it does require that we take a further look at it. And I hope that you will remember in looking at this that our Nebraska nonpartisan Unicameral system fails miserably if the committee system doesn't work well. And what I mean by that are a couple of things. First of all, there's no other house to appeal to. You can't go to the Senate, or on the opposite side, to the House and try to reconstruct the process or develop a compromise by instituting it out of the other house. So that avenue is not there for you. And furthermore, because it's nonpartisan, there is no broad party consensus or party point of view crossing different dividing lines that helps build consensus on these kinds of things. So I think you have to be sure that the committee system...you have to satisfy yourself that in each and every case the committee system is working properly. And I submit to you that in this particular instance it has not worked